



# 京都 清宗根付館

## The Spring Exhibition of Dream at Kyoto Seishu Netsuke Art Museum, April 1-30, 2014

The Seishu Netsuke Art Museum in Kyoto will be hosting a special exhibition “Dream” throughout April. This exhibition will be displaying Netsuke embodying the shape of “dream” and enclosing “reveries” within the space of merely a few centimeters. We hope you enjoy not only the intricate technique of fine, traditional Japanese carvings, but also the unique world created by the refined, imaginative sensitivity of Netsuke artists across the ages.



[Dates] 2014 April 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) ~ April 28<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

[Open] 10:00 ~ 17:00 (last entry 16:30)

[Entrance Fee] ¥ 1000 (Half price for middle/high school students)

\*This exhibition is open to those who are 13 and over only



## What is Netsuke?

Netsuke is a small clasp used to fasten various bags and cases hung from the Obi, such as Inro (a traditional Japanese pillbox), drawstring purses, and tobacco cases, and are commonly made from materials such as ivory, holly, and deer antler. The uniqueness of the Netsuke comes from the creativity of making the clasp aesthetically pleasing from all angles. It was particularly popular during the Bunka-Bunsei Period of Edo Japan (approximately around 1804-30), and was in demand regardless of social class, from regular townsfolk to Shogun lords.

For further information please contact:

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## Netsuke in Western culture

Once Japan entered the Meiji period, there was a significant decrease in demand for Kimono, which ultimately led to the exportation of Netsuke to the Western world. In recent years, there is widespread interest across the West in Netsuke as an art form, to the point that a Netsuke was auctioned in the UK for over a million yen in 2011. Western writers have also taken to this tradition and are producing their own Netsuke as of late. Made within a different cultural context, these modern, Western Netsuke provide fresh insight into the world of Japanese tradition and opens doors of artistic possibility.

## Kyoto Seishu Netsuke Art Museum

Kyoto Seishu Netsuke Art Museum is the first museum dedicated solely to the art of Netsuke and was established by Mister Muneaki Kinoshita, a long-time collector of modern Netsuke. His collection includes more than 3000 traditional Netsuke, and he organizes exhibitions displaying some 400 of these traditional artifacts at least five times a year.

The museum is located within the only traditional samurai residence “Kyu-kanzakike-jutaku” (previously the residence of the Kanzaki family) found in Rakuchu Kyoto (the area designating Kyoto during the Heian period) and has been designated as a cultural asset of Kyoto.



SHO Ochiai “Dream”

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